

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 08611 141648Z

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00

L-03 FRB-01 OMB-01 TAR-01 SP-02 AGR-10 AID-05 CIAE-00

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OFA-01 DLOS-04 /116 W

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R 141540Z NOV 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS GENEVA 8611

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, UNCTAD

SUBJECT: UNCTAD COMMITTEE ON SHIPPING, 7TH SESSION

SUMMARY. 7TH SESSION, COMMITTEE ON SHIPPING, MIDWAY THROUGH ITS MEETING, HAS, FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, COMPLETED DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS. NO SHIPPING ITEMS WILL BE REMITTED TO UNCTAD IV. LAST HALF OF SESSION WILL CONCENTRATE ON ATTEMPT TO REACH AGREEMENT ON YET-TO-BE-INTRODUCED RESOLUTIONS ON TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN SHIPPING AND PORTS, FINANCE OF SHIPS AND FREIGHT RATES. GROUP B COUNTRIES ATTEMPTING TO DISSUADE INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION CALLING FOR EARLY ENTRY INTO FORCE OF CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LINER CONFERENCES. END SUMMARY.

1. ELECTION OF OFFICERS. VOSS (SWEDEN) WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN. ALATTAR (IRAQ), MARZIOTA DELGADO (CUBA), OROCHIE (NIGERIA), SCHUTHE (CANADA) AND VOGEL (GDR)
UNCLASSIFIED
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 08611 141648Z

WERE CHOSE VICE-CHIRMENN AND CASTRO (MEXICO) PLENARY
RAPPORTEUR.

2. AGENDA WAS APPROVED AS PROPOSED BY SECRETARIAT WITH ONLY MINOR ADJUSTMENT TO CONSOLIDATE PORT CONGESTION DOCUMENTS UNDER ITEM 3. MEMBUKUSWA (ZAIRE) AND TETU (CANADA) WERE ELECTED CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN-CUM RAPPORTEUR FOR THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE.

3. REVIEW OF MARITIME TRANSPORT 1973 AND 1974 (TD/B/C.4/114 AND 125) WAS INCONSEQUENTIAL WITH THE EXCEPTION OF GROUP B QUESTIONING ACCURACY OF DATA SOURCES AND CERTAIN CONCLUSIONS. DOC TD/B/C.4/143 ON CODE OF CONDUCT SERVED AS SPRINGBOARD FOR A NUMBER OF THE GROUP OF 77 TO REITERATE THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE CONVENTION WITH LITTLE OR NO DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANCE. GROUP AS A WHOLE FAVORED PORT CONGESTION ROUNDTABLE PROPOSED BY SECRETARIAT ON ASSURANCE THAT NECESSARY FINANCING WAS AVAILABLE FROM REGULAR UNCTAD BUDGET. HOWEVER, SOURCE OF FINANCE FOR FOLLOW-ON VISITS TO PORTS STILL UNRESOLVED.

4. ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN MERCHANT SHIPPING. DISCUSSION ON TD/B/C.4/136, TREATMENT OF FOREIGN MERCHANT VESSELS IN PORTS WAS INCONCLUSIVE. GROUP AGREED TO KEEP MATTER UNDER CONSIDRATION, AND REQUESTED SECRETARIAT TO REPORT AT 8TH SESSION ON RESULTS OF IMCO DELIBERATIONS ON THE SAME. IT WAS AGREED THAT THIS SUBJECT AS WELL AS TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IN SHIPPING AND PORTS (TD/B/C.4/137) SHOULD NOT BE REMITTED TO UNCTAD IV IN NAIROBI. SECRETARIAT, HOWEVER, IS REPORTEDLY PLANNING TO PREPARE PAPER EMPHASIZING IMPORTANCE OF SHIPPING TO BE FORWARDED TO UNCTAD IV FOR CONSIDERATION DURING DISCUSSION ON COMMODITIES. PROMOTION OF SHIPPING OUTLINE (TD/B/C.4/138) DREW NUMEROUS AND DIFFERING POINTS OF VIEW AS TO NEED FOR THE STUDY AND SUBJECTS TO BE INCLUDED. NO DECISION YET REACHED AS TO HOW DIFFERENCES WILL BE RESOLVED.

5. FREIGHT RATES. (TD/B/C.4/128, 133, 135 AND 140).
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PAGE 03 GENEVA 08611 141648Z

THERE WAS NO SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION ON THIS ITEM. HOWEVER, SWEDEN, ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN SHIPPER'S COUNCIL READ STATEMENT POINTING OUT THE EFFECT OF THE LEVEL OF SERVICE WITHIN CONFERENCE STRUCTURE ON THE LEVEL OF FREIGHT RATES, CONTINUING PROBLEM OF SURCHARGES OF ALL TYPES AND NEED FOR CONFERENCES TO PROVIDE JUSTIFICATION FOR PUTTING THEM INTO EFFECT.

6. CONSULTATIVE MACHINERY (TD/C.4/127 AND SUPPLEMENTS).
IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED SHIPPR'S COUNCILS ARE BENEFICIAL.

DISCUSSION, HOWEVER, LED BY GROUP B, FOCUSED ON THE GENERAL INADEQUACY OF SECRETARIAT- PREPARED DOCUMENTS AND GENERAL OVER-EMPHASIS ON EXPORT PROTECTION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO THE DETRIMENT OF IMPORTS MOVING FROM OTHER END OF TRADE. GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT DOWNPLAYED IN FAVOR OF COMMERCIAL ACTION IN ORGANIZING COUNCILS.

7. TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS IN SHIPPING AND ITS EFFECTS ON PORTS (TF/B/C.4/129) WAS CONSIDERED BY SESSIONAL COMMITTEE, ALONG WITH THE APPLICATION OF (COMPUTER) SYSTEMS ANALYSIS TO PORT PLANNING (TD/B/C.4/132) AND PORT PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (TF/B/C.4/131). THE LATTER WAS TRANSFERRED FROM AGENDA ITEM 11. ADDITIONALLY DEFERRED ANY DISCUSSION ON TD/B/AC.14/15 ON TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL INTERMODAL TRANSPORT IN VIEW OF THIS COMING BEFORE THE IPG NEXT FEBRUARY. DOCUMENT 129 RECEIVED GENERAL SUPPORT AND WILL BE NOTED. SECRETARIAT ANNOUNCED DURING DISCUSSION THAT THE FACTORS DESCRIBED IN THE REPORT WOULD BE INCORPORATED IN TRAINING SEMINARS ON TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE PLANNED FOR LATE 76 OR EARLY 77. RE DOCUMENT 132, GENERAL CONSENSUS SUPPORTED PUBLISHING OF HANDBOOK NOW IN PREPARATION VERSUS FURTHER WORK ON COMPUTER SIMULATION. COMMITTEE AGREED ON USEFULNESS OF FURTHER ELABORATION OF PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND SECRETARIAT WILL TAKE POINTS OF DISCUSSION INTO ACCOUNT.

8. INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING LEGISLATION (TD/B/C.4/126 AND 141). WHILE NOT YET TAKEN UP OFFICIALLY, COMPROMISE HAS BEEN WORKED OUT WHICH WILL ALLOW AUSTRALIA TO BECOME MEMBER OF WG ON ISL EITHOUT DISPLACING OTHER
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PAGE 04 GENEVA 08611 141648Z

B COUNTRY. COMPROMISE REACHED WILL INVOLVE ADDITION OF FIVE MORE POSITIONS TO WG, ONE FOR EACH GROUP, RAISING MEMBERSHIP TO 43.

9. SECRETARIAT REPORT ON FINANCE FOR SHIP ACQUISITION (TD/B/C.4/139) WAS WELL RECIEVED IN INITIAL DISCUSSION BUT THIS ITEM NOT CLOSED DUE TO OECD HAVING INTRODUCED A PAPER THAT IS AWAITING TRANSLATION. ADDITIONALLY, VENEZUELA IN COMMENTING ON PARA 87 PROPOSED THAT SOME PERMANENT MACHINERY BE CONSIDERED TO BRING ABOUT GREATER EFFICEENCY IN MATCHING FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS WITH FINANCIAL INSTITUTION CAPABILITIES. IN MEETING RESISTANCE, EXCEPT FOR AGENTINA SUPPORT, THE VENEZUELAN DELEGATION OFFERED TO CLARIFY PROPOSAL FURTHER ON MONDAY.

10. ONLY DOCUMENT TD/B/C.4/134 ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN SHIPPING AND PORTS REMAINED FOR CONSIDERATION UNDER "OTHER BUSINESS." THIS INFORMATIONAL REPORT ON THE

AVAILABILITY OF TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND UNCTAD
WAS RECEIVED WITH APPRECIATION BY THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.
COMMITTEE WILL TAKE NOTE BUT NO OTHER ACTION BY COMMITTEE
CONTEMPLATED.DALE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, SHIPS, MARINE TRANSPORTATION, STANDARDS, CARGO, COMMITTEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975GENEVA08611
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750398-0239
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751143/aaaablws.tel
Line Count: 174
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 AUG 2003 by chicheje>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNCTAD COMMITTEE ON SHIPPING, 7TH SESSION SUMMARY. 7TH SESSION, COMMITTEE ON SHIPPING, MIDWAY THROUGH
TAGS: EWWT, UNCTAD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006